

PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON

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A NEW HONEY-EATER FROM THE MARIANNE  
ISLANDS.

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Comparison of specimens of *Myzomela rubratra* (Lesson) from the Caroline and Marianne Islands, has shown that birds from the latter group represent a distinct form. As there is no name available for this subspecies, it may be known as:

***Myzomela rubratra saffordi*** subsp. nov.\*

*Characters*.—Similar to *Myzomela rubratra rubratra* (Lesson), but red of under parts, head, back, and rump distinctly paler.

*Description*.—Type No. 188,868, U. S. National Museum, male, from Guam, Marianne Islands, collected June 7, 1900, by A. Seale (collector's number, 1547). Wings, scapulars, an interrupted band across upper back, lores, axillary region, tail, under tail coverts, thighs, and lower abdomen black; rest of plumage scarlet.†

*Measurements*.—Males (9 specimens from Guam), wing, 73.3-75.0 mm. (73.9); tail, 50.0-54.0 (52.5); exposed culmen, 17.0-18.0 (17.5); tarsus, 21.3-23.0 (22.1).

*Range*.—Islands of Guam and Saipan. (Specimens from other islands in the Marianne Group not seen.)

*Remarks*.—*Myzomela r. saffordi* has the wing shorter than *Myzomela r. rubratra* from Kusaie (the type locality). The tail and culmen average a very little less than in the typical form. Only one specimen, a male, has been seen from Saipan in the Marianne Islands. This apparently is an immature bird that is just assuming adult plumage; it has the red of the underparts paler than the series examined from Guam. This difference may be due to age, but it is possible that with additional material the Honey-eaters from the two islands may be separated as distinct forms. For the present the bird from Saipan is considered identical with those from Guam.

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\* Named for Mr. W. E. Safford, in recognition of his work on the natural history of Guam.

† Ridgway, R., Color Standards and Nomenclature, 1912.

Bonaparte, in 1854,\* recognized that the Red Honey-eaters from the Marianne Islands differed from those found in the Carolines. However, he assigned *Myzomela rubratra* of Lesson to birds from the Marianne Group, and named the Caroline Islands birds *Myzomela major*. As Lesson† described his *Cinnyris rubrater* from "Oualan," an old name for the island of Kusaie, in the eastern Carolines, *Myzomela major* of Bonaparte becomes a synonym of *M. r. rubratra*.

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\* *Compte Rendu*, 1854, pp. 263-264.

† *Diet. Sc. Nat.*, Vol. 50, 1827, p. 30.